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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,382	03/28/2005	Fow-Lai Poh	122906	4546
25944	7590	05/22/2006		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER PATEL, DHARTI HARIDAS	
			ART UNIT 2836	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

14A

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/529,382	POH, FOW-LAI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dharti H. Patel	2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/28/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-7 and 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasahara, Patent No. 4,751,609. With respect to claim 1, Kasahara teaches an electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2, Col. 1, lines 6-13, Col. 2, line 12] in which an electrode group including a plurality of electrodes [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8, Col. 2, lines 14-16] covered with an insulating material [Fig. 3, 4, insulating base layer, Col. 2, lines 13-14] is used as a holding surface, and predetermined voltage [Fig. 3, 14, power supply circuit, Col. 2, lines 41-45] is applied to the electrode group [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8] to hold a holding object [Fig. 3, 10, Col. 2, lines 18-19] by an electrostatic force with a contact state [Fig. 3, 12, adsorbing layer, Col. 2, line 25] or with a floating non-contact state, comprising an internal polarization eliminating device [Fig. 3, 18, 48-54, Col. 2, lines 48-54] configured to eliminate an internal polarization generating in the insulating material by switching a polarity of the voltage to be applied to the electrode group [Abstract, lines 11-15, Col. 2, lines 48-54].

With respect to claim 2, Kasahara teaches an electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2, Col. 1, lines 6-13, Col. 2, line 12] in which an electrode group including a plurality of electrodes [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8, Col. 2, lines 14-16] covered with an insulating material [Fig. 3, 4, insulating base layer, Col. 2, lines 13-14] is used as a holding surface, and predetermined voltage [Fig. 3, 14, power supply circuit, Col. 2, lines 41-45] is applied to the electrode group [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8] to hold a holding object [Fig. 3, 10, Col. 2, lines 18-19] by an electrostatic force with a contact state [Fig. 3, 12, adsorbing layer, Col. 2, line 25] or with a floating non-contact state, comprising an applied voltage control portion [Fig. 3, 18] functioning as an applied voltage switching device configured to apply the voltage whose polarity is opposite to previously applied voltage to the same electrode group whenever switching the applied voltage to the electrode group from disconnecting to applying [Abstract, lines 11-15, Col. 2, lines 48-54]:

With respect to claim 3, Kasahara teaches an electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2, Col. 1, lines 6-13, Col. 2, line 12] in which an electrode group including a plurality of electrodes [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8, Col. 2, lines 14-16] covered with an insulating material [Fig. 3, 4, insulating base layer, Col. 2, lines 13-14] is used as a holding surface, and predetermined voltage [Fig. 3, 14, power supply circuit, Col. 2, lines 41-45] is applied to the electrode group [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8] to hold a holding object [Fig. 3, 10, Col. 2, lines 18-19] by an electrostatic force with a contact state [Fig. 3, 12, adsorbing layer, Col. 2, line 25] or with a floating non-contact state, comprising an applied voltage control portion [Fig. 3,

18] functioning as a voltage of reversed polarity generating device configured to generate the voltage whose polarity is opposite to the voltage to be applied [Fig. 3, 16] to the electrode group [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8] at the time of handling, and configured to be capable of applying the voltage of the reversed polarity generated by the voltage of reversed polarity generating device to the electrode group when the electrostatic force deteriorates [Abstract, lines 11-15, Col. 2, lines 48-54].

With respect to claim 4, Kasahara teaches an electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2, Col. 1, lines 6-13, Col. 2, line 12] in which an electrode group including a plurality of electrodes [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8, Col. 2, lines 14-16] covered with an insulating material [Fig. 3, 4, insulating base layer, Col. 2, lines 13-14] is used as a holding surface, and predetermined voltage [Fig. 3, 14, power supply circuit, Col. 2, lines 41-45] is applied to the electrode group [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8] to hold a holding object [Fig. 3, 10, Col. 2, lines 18-19] by an electrostatic force with a contact state [Fig. 3, 12, adsorbing layer, Col. 2, line 25] or with a floating non-contact state, comprising an applied voltage control portion [Fig. 3, 18] functioning as a voltage applying device configured to apply an applied voltage [Fig. 3, 16] to the electrode group [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8] by alternately changing to a reversed polarity [Abstract, lines 11-15, Col. 2, lines 48-54].

With respect to claim 5, Kasahara teaches electrostatic tweezers [Fig. 3, 10 and 12] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to

claim 1, wherein the holding surface is adopted as an attracting portion of the tweezers.

With respect to claim 6, Kasahara teaches an electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] including a control portion [Fig. 3, 18] for controlling voltage to be applied [Fig. 3, 16] to an electrode [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 and 8] to hold a holding object [Fig. 3, 10] by an electrostatic force with a contact state [Fig. 3, 12] or with a floating non-contact state comprising the electrode includes a pair or two or more pairs of an electrode A [Fig. 3, electrodes 6] and an electrode B [Fig. 3, electrodes 8] adjacently disposed through an insulating area [Fig. 3, 4], and the control portion [Fig. 3, 18] applies the voltage whose polarities are opposite to each other to the electrode A [Fig. 3, electrodes 6 are positive] and the electrode B [Fig. 3, electrodes 8 are negative], and alternately applies the voltage of the reversed polarity of positive and negative to the same electrode element [Abstract, lines 11-15, Col. 2, lines 48-54].

With respect to claim 7, Kasahara teaches that the holding object [Fig. 3, 10] is directly held to the electrode or is held to the electrode through another member [Fig. 3, 12, Col. 2, line 25] with a contact state.

With respect to claim 9, Kasahara teaches a transportation device or a stage [Fig. 3, 4] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to claim 1.

With respect to claim 10, Kasahara teaches electrostatic tweezers [Fig. 3, 10 and 12] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to

claim 2, wherein the holding surface is adopted as an attracting portion of the tweezers.

With respect to claim 11, Kasahara teaches electrostatic tweezers [Fig. 3, 10 and 12] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to claim 3, wherein the holding surface is adopted as an attracting portion of the tweezers.

With respect to claim 12, Kasahara teaches electrostatic tweezers [Fig. 3, 10 and 12] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to claim 4, wherein the holding surface is adopted as an attracting portion of the tweezers.

With respect to claim 13, Kasahara teaches a transportation device or a stage [Fig. 3, 4] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to claim 2.

With respect to claim 14, Kasahara teaches a transportation device or a stage [Fig. 3, 4] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to claim 3.

With respect to claim 15, Kasahara teaches a transportation device or a stage [Fig. 3, 4] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to claim 4.

With respect to claim 16, Kasahara teaches a transportation device or a stage [Fig. 3, 4] comprising the electrostatic holding device [Fig. 3, 2] according to claim 6.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowance of claim 8: The prior art teaches an electrostatic holding device, but does not disclose that the electrostatic holding device further comprises a distance detecting device configured to detect a distance between the electrode and the holding object, wherein the control device controls the holding object based on distance information detected by the distance detecting device to be floated and held to the electrode by being separated with a predetermined distance. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitations is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

Conclusion


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dharti H. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2836

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DHP
05/12/2006



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